

EDGE ONE

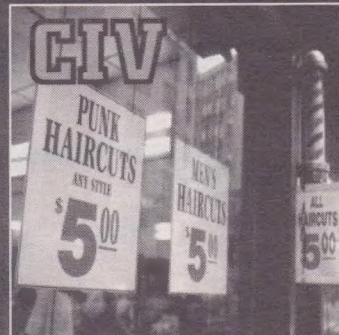
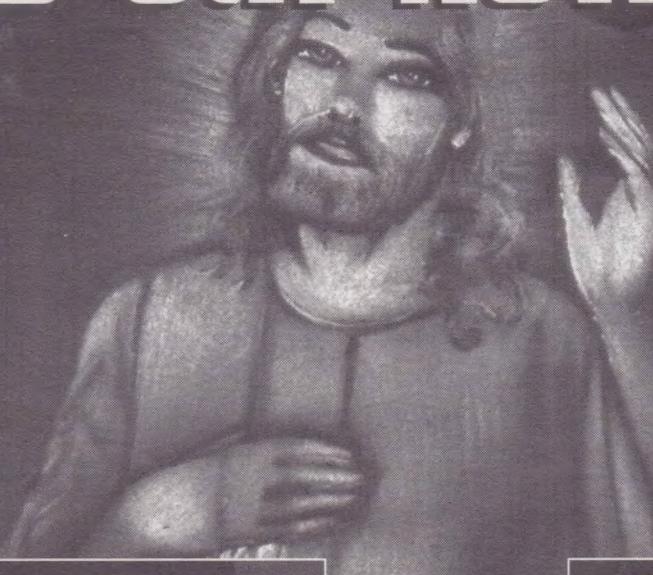
ISSUE 3
1 DM

CIV
A.T.C.
NEW AGE
BEOWULF
WAR ZONE
EARTH CRISIS

Revelation trucks out new shit



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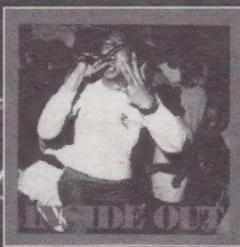


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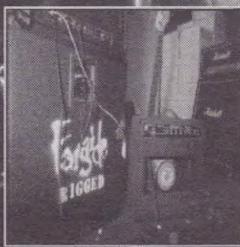
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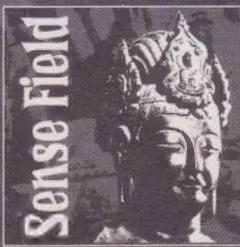
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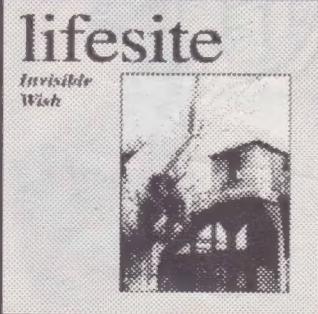
SOME SECOND THOUGHTS

Where are we now - where will we stand tomorrow??? In the beginning we all have faith, hope and soul power. But as soon as life starts environmental changes and the accident to expand or block the potentials begin to occur. If faith, hope and belief naturally belong to life how come that so many of us lose them? They lose them so deeply that they start to love their dependence and servitude. Isn't this behavior characteristic for the human existence?! Most of us long for love and understanding - not just being fed and pampered, but respected and cared for. Most of us knew about the human invention of lying. We do not lie just with words but also with gestures, voices and our eyes. Most of us learned the hard way that a lot of times people really don't mean what they actually say. And this is not done to us by strangers - it is done by the ones we truly believed and trusted in, like bands, fanzines or any ideals in general. Only few were not touched by this disappointing part of our fate. But probably it's good things go that way. There may be no other way for our hope to become that strong and indelible (for example look at all the bands and labels who have been agitating against CD's, bands and their companies and suddenly they are on the same side!). On the

other hand, how many had to face this destruction of hope - it might be gone forever! In fact there are lots of answers and reactions to this problem: personal, social, psychological or economical ones. We see and feel this cold hearted process at a certain point of life, maybe at the age of 5 or 10 or 20 years. Or it's just right at the moment when we can't no longer stand to be hurt over and over again. Some fall silent and move out of our neighborhood. Others decide not to act like lambs and to be heavily disappointed again. They begin to realize and develop their ability to hurt others. Anyway we should not overrate these consequences. There are always some conditions responsible for certain reactions. We have to make concessions to others what we concede ourselves. Hope is an important element of every attempt to make a social change into a more conscious and lively future. But often its nature is misinterpreted and confused or mixes up with attitude which has nothing to do with hope. In fact it's mostly the opposite side of it. Let us hope not to lose the faith and belief in our hope!!!

OVER THE EDGE CREW

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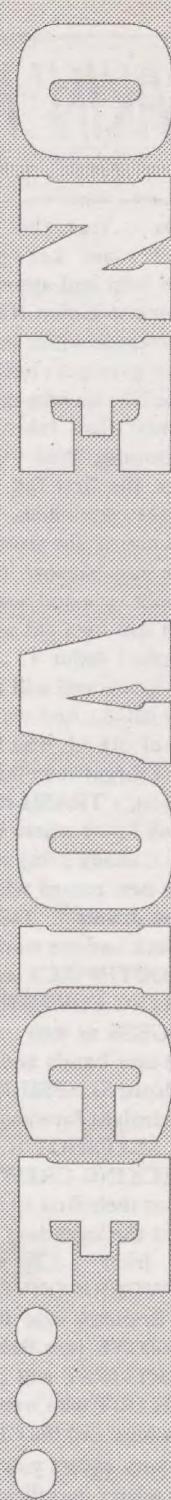
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MAKIN' MONSTERS FOR OUR FRIENDS

Hell, what happened over the past 2 months??!

Delays . . . Yeah, that's right. Doin' this issue made one problem after another, but we're not sorry it's late. Let's go into details now. . . . To fuckin' boring? Some people think everyone would help and appreciate us, Yo that's a complete illusion, but who cares? - Word - ! One big surprise is that NETWORK SOUND (CONVERSION & NEW AGE) have just opened an European office in Berlin: new address and phone or fax number check out the ad... OK, all you naysayers out there, come clean. You didn't think he could do it, did you? Sure, most people labeled him egoistical, a cry baby, but in the middle of it all, Todd Mc Farlane has led the way. He's taken SPAWN to the top of the comics heap and he's done it without compromise. Well - comics - I guess I lost the line, O.K., here's the link: NEW AGE will release the first full length- record of Germany's SPAWN after a few split 7" of smaller Straight edge labels. One of the bands which shared a 7" with SPAWN is FEEDING THE FIRE one of the strong political / straight edge bands of our days. It was hard to follow them in the past because instead of releasing a full -length album they recorded some songs for a few split ep's and some samplers as well. But finally they decided to put everything together and it will turn out as a full release on MAD MOB and it will even come out as a CD- how important today !? ...Ex -MAN LIFTING BANNER /PROFOUND members are making noise again and will release there first CD under the name DEAD STOOLPIGEON also on MAD MOB...And we will kick the latest news of the MOB: they will release the first musical piece of REAL who have made themselves a name by playing in & around Berlin ... Fuck, I almost forgot something: every second, or at least third, Sunday HC-matinees are on the set at Xberg's TRASH club. That's just the new old place down the street from the mighty SO 36, you know where it is, don't you ... The bad news of the last month is that the drummer from Canada's flag ship DOA became a victim of flames when his house burned down!

Their new record which was just to be recorded will now feature John from NO MEANS NO on drums ... Talk about burning we remember the drummer from GAME FACE who are back and are working on a new record deal- it sounds like it won't be NETWORK again ... MOUTHPIECE are releasing there new ep around august ... Promising emocore band FALLING FORWARD split up like there label mates ENDPOINT and the California band PROGRESS as well ... If you are tired of all the crossover and confusion that's around all those new bands and labels, then this is not an alternative for you: Boston's godfathers of Hardcore SLAPSHOT are back on the map in '95 with old drummer Mark McKay and a new straight forward sounding release on LOST & FOUND in August ... By the way, Chris from SLAPSHOT is startin' his new project BITTER with members of WARGASM and WRECKING CREW- that sounds like a heavy mix and it really sounds like that. They will put out their first ep on LOST & FOUND, too in early August ... the last news from Boston is that the legendary FREEZE are working on a new record and it should be out in fall ... Also from L&F soon: a new BONESAW ... The new IGNITE will be on NETWORK/CONVERSION ... SFA are busy on a new record after the last European tour, and Brandon said it will not take as long as last time ... CAUSE FOR ALARM and WARZONE just finished a 4-song split for Victory with new material by both bands ... HEARTFIRST will probably bring out a new STRAIN CD before the end of the year ... LASH OUT who were supposed to be go on to tour and have a new CD out in April will not go on tour and the CD is delayed- who cares as long as it will be kicking anyway! ...

Hey you- didn't you have some other words than "kickin'", fuckin' everything is kickin'. Well mister moralizer, sure I have: KICKBACK from France are back after some personal change in the band and they will record their new record soon; it will be out in fall. ... CHAIN OF STRENGTH are back even with the original drummer who played(?) or is still playing in WOOL and so far it sounds like a new /old CD is coming out ...

In a time where crossover and metal are the influences for new bands, guys like SHEER TERROR- the New York Bulldog- are pumpin' the breaks; their new record is more Punk than ever! Fresh SHEER TERROR will go on tour supporting the THE BUSINESS after there succesful tour in America this spring. ... THE BUSINESS have recorded a new ep which should be out in July/August and there are some plans for a tribute compilation which will keep awake the last dummy. We don't know yet who's on it but so far they said, every new school kid should open there eyes! ... Things have changed: the prairies of Australia are no longer safe for hard working rednecks. She is fast and nasty, wears shoes that don't fit, a bra that's too tight, smokes, drinks and fights too much for her own purpose. TANK GIRL- you say, you've never seen this comic, well, you might, though. Her face is on flyers, walls at underground or political community centers or in zines all over Europe. You'll get the chance to see the brandnew TANK GIRL movie soon. About its music and the problems concerning this check out the BEOWULF interview in this issue. ... If you didn't manage to get their last 7" "Homey, Don't Ya Know Me" it will be released again on L&F (featuring their two classics from "Welcome to Venice") ...

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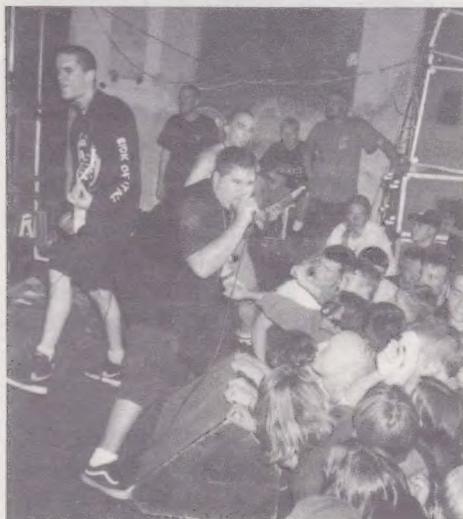
@mark

Lightenage

Venice skate core band EXCEL is back with a new release, featuring HR from BAD BRAINS on guest vocals singing one song ... New York brings out one good band after the other out right now: there's REACH with Richi, ex bassplayer from SOIA and Israel former vocalist of the BAD BRAINS after the holy change back to HR ... Two other bands are H20 and CIV. Second are on a European tour with SICK OF IT ALL ... 'til this magazin will be out everybody already has the CROW OF THORNZ -CD and the legacy of D-MIZE, ex-band of MADBALL's Hoya ... PROFOUND EFFECT is a new band from New York consisting of members from DIE 116 ... The last news from the Big Apple is that KILLING TIME are back with Anthony on vocals and they plan to release a new CD. Before that, they will have a remastered version of "Brightside" together with "Happy Hour" on one CD one label who put out some kicking good cd's are TOO DAME HYPE rec. I know I know - they are not a cliche label well even better? anyway they will bring out the first long player from DARE TO DEFY and LAMENT to August some holy SHELTER is out in august, too with there new cd- Roadrunner?... Detroits COLD AS LIFE are still stucked with their already know demo. They are looking for a record deal for two years now, good luck! ... INTEGRITY have just finished their long waited for new release and it should be out around on Victory in August ... Also coming from the Victory family: a new GUILT ... DAMNATION who are ex-members of BATTERY are about to hit the streets with their first CD "No More Dreams of Happy Endings" ... RYKERS from Kassel are in the studio to record a new mini CD "First Blood" ... Wait a minute, RYKERS - DAMNATION- they will both go on tour in August ... I knew I forgot something: MURPHY'S LAW have recorded a new demo and hopefully it's got the power like earlier material ... Early and forgotten- that reminds us of the CRO-MAGS after this disasterous end: something new is goin' on between Harley Flanagan and Paris Mayhew and Richi from WARGASM on second guitar called "White Devil". By the way, after weird stories of John Joseph bein' behind bars, there has been a benefit show for him- but NY is already experienced doin' this ... RANCID recorded their new record and finally it's still on Epitaph ...

Well for now, we think it's enough with informations, so you can start to make monsters for your friends. If you think you're about to miss news of your favourite bands or style: hey, we're not born to please or to contact every freak. If you're simply not able to help us, why, what? Sorry, no explanation needed. Great question, but only you can give the answer. So what is the question? Exactly! Now we're getting somewhere. Where? Figure out for yourself. And if you're sure you know the answer, you better watch out again, because obviously you saw it wrong. Then you think, you get confused. Stop! What do you think we are about???

Latest news from the Eastside: UNWRITTEN LAW, STAND AS ONE, CHOOSE X and WISE UP are playing on July; 1st at Nordhausen's Landtechnik, so don't miss it!



"And when there's darkness and the lights are all dim
I'll have no fear 'cause I know we will win."

One of the most interesting and unique Hardcore bands is no longer with us: our BLACK TRAIN JACK bros chose to split up! The band was a long waited for variation among the tons of bands who played a more "common" or traditional style of HC. Ernie, former member of legends like TOKEN ENTRY or IN YOUR FACE ON GUITAR and the amazing voice of singer Rob made BLACK TRAIN JACK to a tremendous appearance. Their live shows won't be forgotten: energy, excellent musical performance and most of all, fun were predominant. Which band dares to cover the STEVE MILLER BAND-classic "The Joker" and succeeded in a way like BTJ did! Guys, we will miss you. Don't forget: You're not alone!

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EARTH CRISIS

DAWN OF A NEW ERA

You guys have a new record coming out on VICTORY RECORDS. It's gonna be your long waited for full-length debut. We thought it would be released a little earlier. Why's this delay? Did you have any problems in the band or was it because of personal reasons?

"Our new drummer Denis, who works out great by the way, went to Afrika for three months for studies. When he finally came back we wrote and recorded 10 new songs. Our new material deals with similar topics that we touched before, like our vegan S.E.-ideologie, animal and earth liberation or overcoming personal struggles through inner strength and persistance. So, some topics are very similar and some are different."

You already mentioned the most interesting question: It's your choice to put your ideology and your whole spirit into your songs and their lyrics. What about the controversy of yourself being against abortion, being pro-life and these things?

"We had our first EP "All out War" on CONVICTION RECORDS. Shane from FRAMEWORK wrote one song which is "Stand By" and I wrote one for him, so we traded songs. Basically this song is about the struggle for the salvation of the natural world and innocent life. Be it adult humans, unborn or born children or animals. We didn't want to exclude unborns because we wanted that all was touched upon this aspect. What we did was we had an explaination for the use of the word fetus in that song. A line was about the theme of abortion. We put an explaination sheet in that 7" and expanded on what we meant. For animal and earth liberation violence might be a useful way after education and communication proved to be ineffectivemeans but for abortion it's different. You gotta solve this through compassion, education and personal contability. We feel if a woman is raped, if there has been incest or if the child is hardly damaged by a disease, by an accident or the mother's drug abuse addiction an abortion might be the most merciful way to do. It's better than a life of suffering for the child. But I don't think it's right that people should have an abortion because they didn't practice birth control: they should go through all the struggle and take their responsibilities for their actions. They should raise the child themselves and put it for adoption. You know, we value all innocent life, but this fact isn't something wrong and unnatural at all. Look, with unborn children



it's like animals: They can't speak and defend themselves, so it's up to us to go out and save them!"

But don't you agree that the unborn child's mother should be the most important and powerful person concerning the decision of an abortion because it's one of the most responsible and hardest things to do in life anyway?

"Absolutely!"

Good to hear that. But of course it's just one aspect, one part of your lyrics. Let's call them uncompromising radical. Do you want them to be shocking and offensive to make people think by provoking them using strong expressions. Are you really feeling the way you representing your lyrics or do you actually think a little "nicer" sometimes and take things more easily than in your songs?

We actually want to reach out for them, kinda teach them something or reinforce that what's already there.

"You mean if we wanna stir up people? We actually want to reach out for them, kinda teach them something or reinforce that what's already there. I don't think in general that any band has the power and ability to make

somebody act like for example inspire a person to go out and kill the drug - dealer who's responsible for the death of a friend."

You did a lotta shows in the states, met a lotta people and played with a whole bunch of bands. Some of them were S.E. - some were not and all respected you even if these people were not into your radical way of thinking. But don't you think that many people misunderstand your ideas and thought of you as someone who builds up new barriers through these extreme lyrics? Some might have taken your songs as a call to arms against people who smoke or drink even it's not meant this

"Look, when I got into the scene, actually it wasn't a real scene, it was a bunch of drunks and drug users. I saw that these people were harming their lives and families. I knew and know a lot of people with drug - problems. But what I never did and never would do is to advocate beating up drunken people or the ones who eat meat! What we have in mind to do is hopefully to reach out to them and at least present them the facts. And if they have a conscience they will understand face their problems and see that there's another way out there. We are along with a lotta different people especially in the HC - scene. Of course we feel most comfortable with our vegan - S.E. - people. But definitely a large number of people took us wrong. Some of them spread bad rumors about us like Zines as MAXIMUM ROCK'N'ROLL or countless other ones because they saw our impact outside the S.E. - scene and didn't like that."

"The lyrics represent our experiences - and yes, a lot are negative!"

When you think about the ones you have mentioned right before, even the ones who come out of the HC - background, do you feel kinda abused by both sides? At the one hand there are the people who take you as a bad radical example of S.E. - HC. On the other hand you got the ones self - called "hardliners" taking you as a radical standard just to shock and offend other persons. So, are you misinterpreted, misunderstood by both sides?

"Yeah, definitely! But you really have to think about and confront yourself with our lyrics. They represent our experiences and yes, a lot are negative! But the problem with that is that many simply don't wanna think about these negative things in life like for example the drug dealers just around the corner. I think that it's weak when they all sit with someone who's totally oppressive in our neighbourhood and destroy the community or the peoples lives. "FIRESTORM" is about turning against that, turning that tide away through violence because those people do use violence to push their drugs and intimidate

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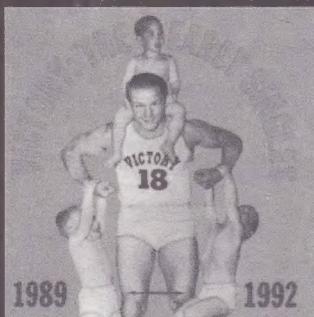


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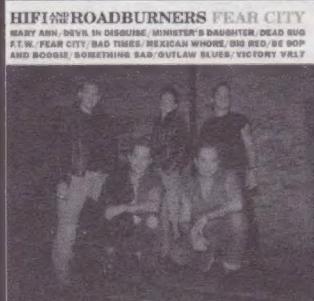
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others. I think the ones who turn their head away from that don't understand the reality."

Why do you think people are stressing so much about EARTH CRISIS in general?

"Hmm, it's basically one thing that offends them. It's the fact that we stand for the protection of life, that people really care about it. But to say this again: Isn't it natural to stand up for life in general? The ones who blame or accuse us or just disagree with our opinions and don't even care about what we really want to say and label ourselves! I can give you an example which is quite similar: When hardline came out everybody was against it because of the homophobic tendencies in it. But they all forgot, that there are actually some good aspects in hardline, too like caring for the environment. Now this is a common topic in hardcore. You see, people tend to see only the bad stuff. Now it's kinda the same with EARTH CRISIS and our vegan - S.E. ideology. People just see the offensive part in it. Veganism doesn't harm anybody and it's just good for our entire world and nature. Hopefully people will realize this through our words and music. And by the way: It's been a part of the HC - scene for a long time. Bands like the CRO - MAGS and YOUTH OF TODAY of course stood for animal liberation! Yeah, and don't forget bands like MDC or other old NYHC - bands like AGNOSTIC FRONT. Roger actually was vegetarian and AF played a lot of animal - rights benefits."

Are things changing a little bit? Do people talk to you personally more and often before they judge you like they did in the past?

"People simply don't want to think about bad things..."

"This is actually true. What I've been talking about so far was the past. Now, for the most part of it, the scene is a lot more accepting EARTH CRISIS. The respond to our message and what we are all about is a lot better now because people begin to see and understand what kinda personalities we are. We are not out there to hurt anybody as long as nobody hurts us, someone else or an animal for their sadistic pleasure or greed. We are out to spread positive messages, things like veganism or the self - liberation of Straight Edge! And one thing I want to mention is: Yes, we are still S.E., but I also know that S.E. isn't something for the masses but we try to reach them with our messages. Alcohol and cigarette - companies are playing them for fools by addicting them for their financial gain. They really can destroy people's lives with their whole advertising and products."

"Veganism doesn't harm anybody and it's just good for our entire world and nature!"

You said when you first entered the HC - scene it was more punky and stuff. But when EARTH CRISIS and other guys from your area came out you really smashed into the scene. We heard that it was kinda unbelievable how many people got into the whole thing.



thing. What's goin' on now? It seemed that the waves have calmed down a little.

"When we and the whole thing around us was new to the rest of the scene things might have looked a little more exciting. But actually it's all still the same. Bands are putting out new records, are playing gigs and stuff. They are around for two or three years now and have established themselves. The scene is definitely still growing. When we played shows You and other bands like SNAPCASE kinda invented a new sound in HC. There's a lot of metal riffing and very hard, slow parts. After the release of "Firestorm" nearly every new band joined this, let's say "New School" type of HC. Now it seems there's also the more "traditional" way of HC - sound around among new bands.

"Oh yeah! I think as long as people like to listen to this older type of style bands will stick to it and play it - that's great! And it's like people seem to pay more attention to Europe in the States as well."

VICTORY RECORDS even signed the DOUGHNUTS, an all - female - S.E. band from Sweden.



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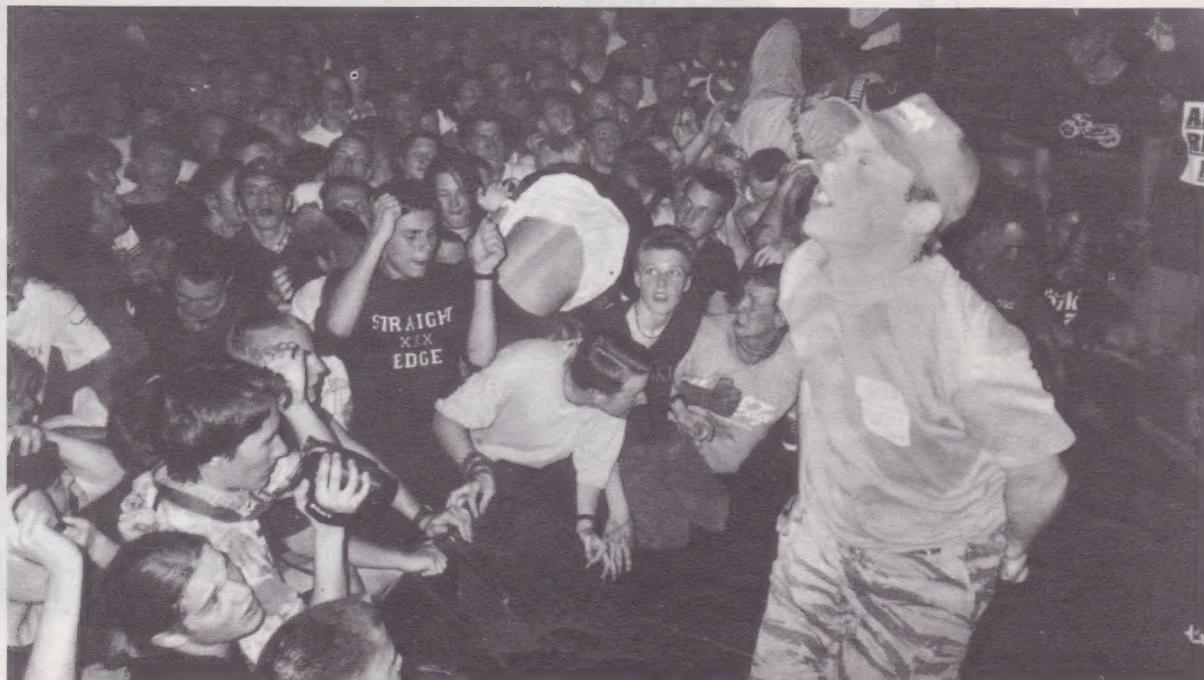
"This rules! People were waiting for a female band in this type of music for a long time!"

Finally, what are your future plans? You just finished your European tour but what's the next "big deal"?

"Our first 7" "All out War" will be rereleased and "Destroy the Machines" which is the title of our new album will be out at the end of May. We hopefully will record a new E.P. before we go on tour in the U.S. in summer. In September we will join Europe again for a whole tour."

All answers by Carl, EARTH CRISIS

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The rumor was around for a long time. Now it's clear: Some of the greatest NYHC musicians of the 80's, namely Civ - vocals (GORILLA BISCUITS, PROJECT X), Charley - guitar (OUTFACE), Arthur - bass (TOKEN ENTRY, KILLING TIME, GORILLA BISCUITS) and Sammy - drums (YOUTH OF TODAY, JUDGE) are in kinda NYHC - allstar band together again: CIV. That sounds like a guarantee for muthafuckin' good old school melodic Hardcore! Reason enough for us to talk with Sammy about the past, present and future of CIV.

O.K., first of all: You might have heard it a thousand times before, but this question first: Is CIV actually GORILLA

"It has nothing to do with each other! It's a brandnew band! Sure there are some members of GB or YOUTH OF TODAY and JUDGE in CIV - but it's not necessarily the same band. You know, we have always played together in each others band - so we never really broke up and this isn't really a totally new thing, too."

After the split up of all these great bands like GB or YOT - is this kinda reunion or did you guys play the whole time together in bands?

"No, we were all doing our own stuff, for example: I was doing a band with the singer of OUTFACE, called LOADED, which was more crossover themed. Civ was doin' tattoos, he owns a tattoo shop. Arthur and Charley, our guitar player, had their own bands, too. But we always wanted to do something together again, bringin' Civ back into music again 'cause he wasn't it doin' for a while. So we said: "Man, we'll gonna do it just for fun, maybe to bring out some 7"s". And the more we get involved in this, the more it became serious and now it's a real band. We never wanted to be the new GORILLA BISCUITS. We always wanted to be a brandnew band and take it as a different thing."

Owning a store, Civ must be very busy. How will he make it in the future when it turns out to be a "real" thing?

"He has a partner at his store, so his partner could run it. And whenever we have some off - time, Civ can be out there. It's pretty close to his house so he just could go out there and work."

When you talk about recording, do you plan to bring some records out, do you have a record deal, what is your concept for the upcoming months?

"Yeah, there's a 7" coming out on REVELATION RECORDS and it's coming out just on Vinyl. It has two tracks on it, namely "Can't wait a minute more" and "There's a knife in my back". Then we might do another 7", 'cause we have 19 songs until now. But after that we will do a full time CD, coming out probably in June!"

With all these names of the big NYHC-era in the band people surely expect that your music is gonna be the same way. What is it about?

"We wanted a little bit of everything, you know, there are no bands around, which are playing "real" Hardcore, besides maybe SICK OF IT ALL. But that's the music we grew up with and that's what we really feel strong about. We just do "real" Hardcore. But on the other hand we grew up a lot musically,

too! To me there's a lot of the "Start Today" - style in it. It will be an interisting album to listen to, because it is the next step plus some serious old - school stuff."

When talking about your former bands, one is forced to think at the term "Straight Edge". Does it affect CIV, too, or is it a theme which you already wrote too much about?

"Civ is on the way to get a "Straight Edge" - tatto across his stormach now, that's all I can say. But that's what Hardcore is all about, you know, it's about saying something. We want to say something in a positive way and expressing ourselves. And we have a lot to say! Actually there are a lot of lyrics written about that right now, but I don't know what it will end up like. Let's see if we come on stage with S.E. - X's on our hands - I don't know - we'll see!"

Who is the main writer of your lyrics?

"Civ is the main writer, but Walter (actually in QUICKSAND but former member of GB) is actually involved in writing. Walter is producing the record, but he's not a band member. He is just involved in CIV as far as a producer or a song writer is. He is writing a lot of stuff with us, too."

Did you guys plan a tour?

"We wanna do a tour with QUICKSAND and ORANGE 9mm plus doing some shows with SICK OF IT ALL in the U.S. Then we wanna come over to Europe in the end of May supporting S.O.I.A."

A lot of people will say that you just jumped on a trendy train, 'cause Hardcore is now getting hyped and you can make money out of it. What do you feel about that? Did you ever left your way of lifestyle?

"You know, I ever listened to my favourite form of music, bands like 7 SECONDS, but the problem was, that there was nothing goin'



on in NY, but now it's coming up again. That doesn't mean that we jumped on a trendy train, we just figured out that it was about time for us to be a band again. For example: I was jumping from one band to another for about the last 3 years. I was doin' a Reggae - band and a kinda more alternative band - but I still love **Didn't you join SHELTER for a while, too?**

"Yes, but i am not in SHELTER anymore. They just had problems with their drummer, so they called me up and I wanted to help them out, 'cause I hadn't seen them for a long time and they are just cool guys. I helped them out and it was a cool time! We also did a YOUTH OF TODAY reunion show once. But we only did one single show in New Jersey with S.O.I.A and SHELTER. We just said " Fuck it, let's do it for one time". But we thought it would be corny doing this for a long time again. Keep bringing YOUTH OF TODAY back is like milking an old thing. But with SHELTER we really tried to do some new stuff."

Is it a NY phenomenon to end things up and start in new bands again, like for example AGNOSTIC FRONT and MADBALL?

"I have seen a lot of bands playing way thw point they should have broken up. They were playing a different music, they were doing a different thing. I think it is a better choice a more loyal to change the name and start something new. There are even a lot of bands around, which come together again, doin' a reunion tour, come over to Europe, making a lot of money out of it and that's just fucked up to me. They should do something really new and fresh. I've not been in Europe since GB, but from what I hear, all bands know that the European market is stronger and bigger than the U.S. market is at the moment. So everybody wants to come over to you!"

Back to the music: When will the first 7" come out?

"It's in the hands of Jordan (REVELATION). I really don't know. I heard that it will be released in a cupple of weeks. But don't forget: It's just gonna be a Vinyl - two song - 7". We also did a video - clip, which Marcus, a friend of us, directed. He had a concept, which was great and a lot of connections so we could have done it really inexpensive. But we did it just for fun and it's not out now. Hopefully it will be out when our record is available in the stores. See, it's stupid to put it out now. 'cause it has nothing in the back. You can't put a video out with no record! But then it hopefully is gonna get played, 'cause it's really cool. I can't say too much about it except Lou from S.O.L.A. is in it, too."

So there's nothing behind the rumor that there's a major company behind CIV, which will push CIV to the top all over the world in a single night?

"(Laughter) O.K. - the director and Jordan, Civ and Walter actually payed the most of it from their hard earned own money. You see - no major company, no big money, no sellout or whatever man!"

O.K. last question: You said before that there is much of "Start Today" in your music. But will the music end up like in the end of GB, with 45 seconds thrashy melodic songs?

"Definitely! The music is great! I love it and I hope the kids don't come and only wanna hear old GB stuff. I hope that they will get into the music we play now and I think they will, because if you like GORILLA BISCUITS you'll love this! Basically it's like this: We all grew up together playing the music we all love. We have a lot of good people involved in it and we all will give 100%. Let's see what's gonna happen!"

Thanx a lot for the interview, good luck for the future. We all look so forward to your tour with S.O.I.A. in summer.

Shit me Ben !

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NEW AGE RECORDS



NEW AGE - this name has become a kind of synonym for great Straight Edge Hardcore! If you take a closer look at this label you'll definitely get in touch with a guy named Mike Hartsfield. Known to many as guitar player of **OUTSPOKEN**, now bassman in **STRIFE** & runner of **NEW AGE RECORDS**. This man has always been involved in the Californian HC- scene, so we met with him during the European **STRIFE** / **S.O.I.A.**-tour.

Mike, there are two different labels around, **NEW AGE** & **CONVERSION**. What's behind that and how did you get the whole thing started?

"Actually there are three different labels: **CONVERSION** is Dennis label, I do **NEW AGE** and together we have a company called **NETWORK SOUND**. I founded **NEW AGE** in August 1988 basically just to help out a few friends of mine, **WALK PROUD**. This was my first release. There were hardly any labels around these days, so I got myself a name & address and started **NEW AGE**. I decided to work in two jobs and had a couple of \$'s and put it out. I never thought of doing a second record."

How was work back then? It must have been very new and underground for you.

"Yeah, I was just doin' some phonecalls to other persons to help me out. It was cool to help my friends. I was still doin' a construction job and worked at a pizza - place, until the middle of '94 **NEW AGE**'s office was actually my bedroom."

What's the direction of **NEW AGE** now? You seem to have become one of the most attractive labels around in the U.S. - scene.

"We are growing, that's true. In September '94 Dennis and me got ourselves a warehouse to work in an keep all the stuff. Before that we had all our goods in Dennis' garage. It was a fuckin' mess, man! It's four month ago now and we still can't believe we have the key to our own building. It's so cool when you see all these people around us with their ties and stuff and they ask us: 'Hey, what the hell are you guys doin'?' Hey, we do records! We are pretty stoked about this development. But look, you can't do it all as just one single person. Now things are the best they've ever been. We have some employees, one does all the deliveries, another does all the mailorder. Everything is a lot better - way more productive."

So, **NEW AGE** and **CONVERSION** are two different labels. But you work very closely together?

"You know, REVELATION and NEW AGE have never been connected moneywise, as many people think." (Mike Hartsfield)

"Yeah, exactly. Each one can take his own responsibility. Since we see each other everyday we work so much better. One can't imagine how much work it really is until he's doing it. You have to please so many things and people like bands, distributors, mailording people - the whole stuff!"

First you had a correspondence with **REVELATION**, what's up with this connection?

"You know, **REVELATION** & **NEW AGE** have never been connected moneywise, as many people think. I had a full - time job at **REVELATION**, but Jordan (runner of **REVELATION**) and me got too busy, so he got another guy doin' my work and I could concentrate myself on **NEW AGE**. **REVELATION** for us is strictly a distributor, that's all. By the way, Jordan's company is growing really fast now. He does a lot of work in the states, he works really hard - no matter what kind or style of band he's doing."

What do you think of **REVELATION**'s new type of releases? They are completely different from, let's say the classic releases he was doing.

"I as a Hardcore - kid would wish him to release more HC - type of music. But it's his own decision, Jordan can do whatever he wants and likes. There are so many different types of music I like but can't put out on **NEW AGE**. That's why we decided to found **NETWORK SOUND**. If there's something I like and want to release but it's not HC it's gonna be on **NETWORK**."

Now you have almost mentioned it - what are your future releases?

"There are **STONE TELLING** CD & vinyl coming out on **NETWORK**. You know, that's funny: I haven't seen these guys and when I saw the singer I said: 'Oh, your record is ready to be released!' And he went: 'What?!? Oh, cool!' Why I originally wanted to do **NETWORK SOUND** was simply the

fact that I wanted to put out the **DRIFTING IN - 7"**. They were not a HC band, so I founded another label. See, that's another thing I never planned. Now we have **STONE TELLING** coming out, Dennis got **GAMEFACE**, I got **ASHES** and so on."

Also **CONVERSION** took some slight changes in the past. If you look at the releases like for example **MAN WILL SURRENDER**.

"Yeah, Dennis basically puts out what he likes. It's not intentional - no marketing change or something like that. Everything which is on **CONVERSION** is by his close friends."

But people combine a certain idea and type of music with the names **NEW AGE** & **CONVERSION**. Do you agree and like that?

"Oh sure! I will stay in the direction I've once chosen. After



MEAN SEASON came out in 1994 I will only release 3 records in 1995: A new UNBROKEN 7" or 12" E.P., we're not sure, a new MEAN SEASON 12" E.P. and a MOUTHPIECE 7" - that's all! LIFETIME are on another label now and RESURRECTION are playing sometimes, but maybe they'll do something on EQUAL VISION."

What do you think of the newer Straight Edge bands like UNBROKEN for example?

"I really like UNBROKEN a lot. They are one of the nicest persons I've ever met and worked with. They are so heavy musicwise. Look at them with all their 50's look - like - stuff, pomade, greasy hair, chain wallets, shoes and stuff. But when they come on stage they are so fuckin' intense!"

What comes next for NEW AGE except these 3 records? What expectations do you have?

"Man, I have to take care of so much stuff this year. Bands keep sending me Demos, but I decided to do less records and to promote them better. That's fairer to the bands, you know. But I pass the Demos to other persons doing labels, that's important! You know what: Since I've existed, the one thing I never really tried to do was to sell records. They nearly did it themselves. But now I think I have to promote my stuff better, so that the bands get more response to their work."

Are you content with this development? Everything turns to be more professional and that means great responsibility for you.

"As long as the bottom - line is that it's still so much fun for me, I'll do it. If you do something you love and it pays its rent, it's simply amazing. But I'm still learning and keep making mistakes. But this progress is great and I don't wanna do anything else as long as it stays fun! There's still so much experience. I've been playing in bands since 1987 and I never thought of going to Europe. Now I'm here with STRIFE and it's unbelievable! We wouldn't be here without M.A.D.'s help, we wouldn't be here without S.O.I.A.'s help. We already did a U.S. - tour with them and it was just blastin'! They all helped us so much!"

Let's take at last a look at California. How is the situation for HC over there right now and what perspectives do you have in general?

"Sadly there are hardly any bands around except UNBROKEN, MEAN SEASON & STRIFE who are actually visibly. There are just very few shows. But the number of HC - kids seem to increase - that's weird. People gotta start doin' something than just talk! Hardcore isn't dying as long as people are still believing in it. It is better to play in front of 10 kids who are complete into it than play a show for 1000 people just consuming it!"

NEW AGE RECORDS

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Ray, as one of the early bands around in the Big Apple, how do you feel about the direction, the development the scene has taken?

From the early 80's to the 90's the scene in NYC went through a lotta changes, but there's always been a family type of atmosphere. Then- from 1990 'til early '93- it sort of died out somewhat. But in the last year there have been a lot of new bands coming up, like CIV, H2O, CROWN OF THORNZ or YUPPICIDE and it's getting like before again. There are hundreds of new kids in the scene and the ones from the 2old school" are starting to hang out again."

You've always been part of the HC-scene. First started as a drummer of AGNOSTIC FRONT (featured on their all time classic "United Blood" EP) and founding member of BYO (YOUTH BRIGADE, DOA,...). Then you got your own band WARZONE: What do you think is your own personal position in the scene today?

"One of the most important things is that anyone who has been part of the movement for a long time is to pass on the meaning of it to the ones who are new in the scene. But the big difference nowadays is that there are so many little groups in HC. Everything is so much divided, there's no union in punk and HC anymore. This gives too much room for these fuckin' moralizers, you know, all the people telling you what to do or sometimes even who you are. I think it's really important to keep this rockstar mentality out of HC."

Over the past years one could get the impression that the band kinda dissapeared from the public eye. What have you done in that time?

"What does that mean "public eye". WARZONE never really disappeared from the scene- we just didn't tour for a while and like everybody knows, had no record out. This had to do with personal reasons but we were always doin' a lotta things in NYC. We were just takin' a break for 1 1/2 years and I was reforming the band."

You have always been a uncompromising band. Are you still into the spirit of your old songs?

As far as WARZONE is concerned, the purpose and meaning behind the band is still the same as it was ten years ago. We're into a lot of more things now because there different people in the band now and the "family" has grown so much larger. But we still do our old material today. But I gotta say that there are a few songs we don't play anymore 'cause they don't fit in this time anymore. Those were totally misunderstood and caused a lotta problems in the past. But this misunderstanding was not exactly the point to decide not to play these songs anymore. It was on the first American tour: We played in Mexico and after the show I was sittin' there with bunch of local people and I understood that this kind of controversial lyrics are not the right way and hard to understand for the ones who don't live in the American society and its typical way of life. And after my first visit in Europe, it was '82 I think, I don't know if you still know this, the people over there were much more into political matters than nowadays. I was living in the squats and met so many different people. They even got fuckin' arrested on demonstrations in Berlin. Being together with them in that time will stuck in my head forever."



You mentioned so many different people. Hasn't WARZONE always stood for a kind of thinking in an American way?

"Well this is the misunderstanding we always had to deal with. In this one song we sing about communism destroying America. But if you would take your time you would understand that this is actually not what we believe in. It's just what society always wanted to teach you and many were really into this. WARZONE has never been a anti-communist or anti-anarchist band. Fuck no, we have so many friends believing in exactly these philosophies. And we always emphasized our working class identity- isn't this kinda the same like socialism or at least bein' left winged?!"

You caused so many strange reactions all over the years. Didn't it really bother you hearing so many false statements and rumors about yourself?"

Yes it did! But what can you do if people talk trash about you without even havin' no single conversation with you. I'm sick of all these liberators, liars and saviours. Look- we chose Dr. Know of the BAD BRAINS as producer, toured with bands like AGNOSTIC FRONT or YOUTH OF TODAY but the talkin' never stopped. I finally feel that everyone who stands up for his beliefs will be in the spotlight."

But that sounds a little of considering yourself bein' completely innocent. Some songs were anticipated to be misunderstood.

"Well, I don't think because something is hard to understand it has to be mistaken. But if you do, take some time to figure out what's behind. We don't live in the same culture or social group and that sometimes makes a big difference. People from Northern Ireland or Bask country



are different in their beliefs than Americans or middle Europeans. But anyway, WARZONE has always been against fascism, racism and sexism!"

O.K., right here we'd like to switch back to the band's history. You had a lotta changes in the line-up. A lotta people moved away- so what are they doin' now?"

As you know, we are a unique band. We've always been more like a family with many band members. Some of them moved to different parts of America. Some joined in and are still in the band, like Walter (QUICKSAND), Ritchie (INTO ANOTHER) and most of all my brother Todd Youth (MURPHY'S LAW). They and others are still hangin' out and are part of the family."

After releasing three NYHC- classics, „Lower East Side Crew“ EP, „Don't Forget the Struggle...“ LP and „Open Your Eyes“ LP, your third attempt was kinda fucked in a way. Your record simply entitled „WARZONE“ was a black spot in the band's history. The songs were not like the material before and most of all, there was this shitty drumcomputer. What do you think of this when you look back now?

„Oh god, this fuckin' third album. I've talked so much about in other

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interviews and I've told always the same: I really hated it. Our guitar player during this period forced us to do this stuff. It was the worst mistake I ever did with the band. After this I decided to disband WARZONE for a while. But I always had in mind to start the whole thing again like it was in the beginning: pure energy and unity!"

Your 7" on Victory Records was a pretty good release: track listing, producing, the whole mood of the record was just slammin'! But your current release "Old School to New School" is hard to accept for many people. It contains only one single new track which is quite good, though. However, the quality of the cover tunes is terrible. Why did you decide to release this stuff?"

I agree with everything you just said. We know that the quality of the covers isn't that good. It was mainly released for one reason: We wanted to have a real raw recording and puttin' the record out on Victory had to be done very fast or we had to wait for a few months more. We really wanted to release this stuff and its entire concept, the title, the liner notes, everything was really important to us."

What can we expect from WARZONE in the near future?"

First of all- we'll not disappear and will work on the new album as fast as possible to put it out. Then we'll tour the States again and hopefully get back to Europe without these rumors and talkin'. It's just like this one guy in Bologna said: How can this band be racist minded while having two black and a hispanic people with them."

We've been thinking for a long time if we should still print this interview 'cause it's a little old. But after all the unproductive conversation we finally decided to publish it. We hope that these lines will clear up things after some people (exactly those who started all the shitty rumors and stuff!) left a mess behind their backs. Think, discuss and make up your mind before you judge someone, fuckheads!



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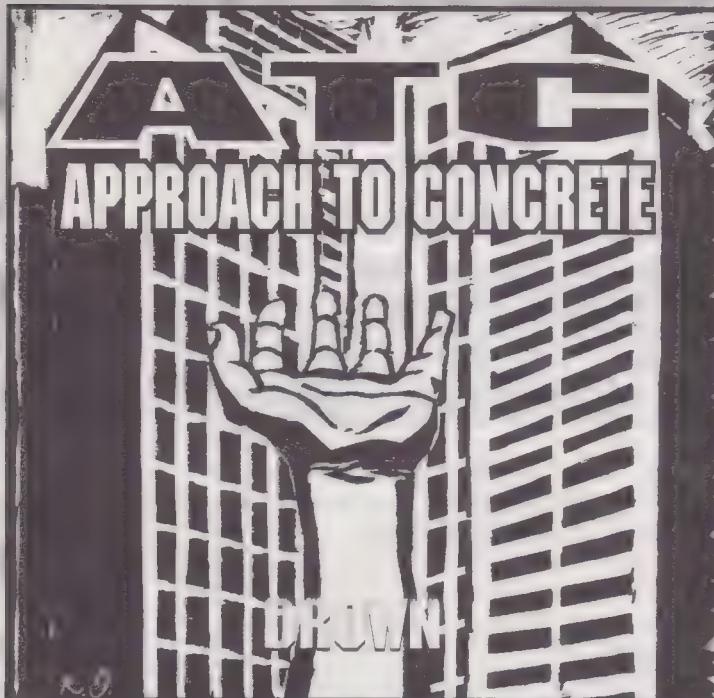
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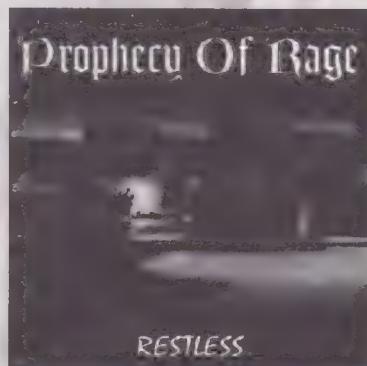
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Beowulf

BWF- these three fuckin' letters stand for a lotta things: Venice, skateboarding, punk rock, crossover, lowriders. But they actually mean this: BEOWULF!!! This name of the only Venice band which is still around playin' strikes excitement into the hearts and minds of many. After last year's excessive tours through the US, Japan and Europe to support their last album "UN-SENTIMENTAL" they're now back with some brand-new brilliant kinda stuff. But let's go back into the band's history first.

BEOWULF is one of the legendary Venice-core bands who started playin' in the middle 80's. Way back in those days there was a whole bunch of bands around who put this part of Southern California on the map of hardcore and punk: EXCEL, NO MERCY and last but not least the SUICIDAL TENDENCIES, which had already released their classic debut album on their own label SUICIDAL RECORDS in 1983. All of these bands were featured on the famous "WELCOME TO VENICE"-compilation which now is one most searched for records in HC ever. It was also Mike Muir, shouter (yeah-he used to at this time and it was great!) of SUICIDAL, who produced and released BEOWULF's first album entitled "TONIGHT" in 1986. The songs on this record were furious, thrashin' punk rock hymns and dealt with themes which were part of the band's lifestyle in those days: "ALCOHOL (MY LIFE)", "DRINK, FIGHT, FUCK" or "TASTE THE STEEL" were titles which spoke for their own. Two years later, the band put out their second piece of work "LOST MY HEAD" on CAROLINE RECORDS. They remained their very own style which was often compared with MOTÖRHEAD. "Our music has been categorized anywhere from metal to alternative, punk to pop. It's best left unclassified," says main man Dale Henderson, guitar player, singer and songwriter of the band. But there's no doubt that this certain crossover of punk and metal, this certain type of riffing and guitar sound will later been known as "Venice-core". "It was very cool during that period of time," Dale reports. "We all hung out with eachother, played gigs and had a cool time. It was like kinda family! But as in life in general, people started to do different things or developed into different directions (yeah, like S.T.- editor). The whole thing broke loose, you know." After years of waitin' BWF released their third one, called "UN-SENTIMENTAL" with a totally different line-up. The songs had developed into a more melodical type of style without loosing their typical BWF-style and energy. A long touring time followed and now the world's now about to face BEOWULF in 1995.

It has been kinda quiet around BWF during the last 1 1/2 years. So, what happened?

"Basically we just reformed the band because we have a total new line-up. It's Dinesh Chaudhuri- drums, Dug Mug- bass, Buckit- guitar and me (Dale Henderson) on guitar and vocals. We had to get the band tight with the songs that we're ready to go on the road again. We did also a lotta shows around here in California. The new members were featured in local HC bands before but they aren't that known."

What actually happened after last year's European tour?

There must have been some internal band problems?

"Clint and Kevin both had a kid, so they had other things in their minds. But we all left in good terms. They just choose the family life and do the 9 to 5 kinda thing, you know."

You are the main songwriter. In fact, you write all the songs. But maybe the new members have brought some new influences into BWF?

"No, not really. But we all share the same influences. Me and the new bass player we grew up together. We know eachother since we were teenagers. He was also the roadie for the first BWF, so we are pretty familiar and have the same influences. Apart from the band they just do their everyday jobs. You know, we work all day and play all night- that's the way it goes."

Let's get to the most interesting questions which are the ones concerning "2 cents" which is the title of your new album. Already with "UN-SENTIMENTAL" you took a step into a new direction. Away from the nervous pure aggression of the first two records into a more melodical, emotional type of vein. You still had your typical BWF sound but it was a little different. On the new release you even go further. It's basically oriented into traditional punk rock, let's say. What's up with that?

"Actually I don't know what really happened. It's just the direction where it went with the new one. The songs were not written in an intentional way ad idn't wanna create a certain sound. I think it had a lot to do with last year's tour. Many topics and musical ideas are based on things and events which happened or came to my mind on the road or even on lotta old stuff I use to listen to like THE WHO. The new songs just came out like that."

But even your vocals did change. You're now more into singing than screaming.

"Yeah, that's true. Finally I learned how to sing. The tour, and it was about 60 shows, really built up my voice and now I'm able to sing. I got a lot more control over it now!" **When did you write the songs for "2 cents", I mean, are they all new or is there also some older material on it?**

"Some of the songs were written and intended to be on "UN-SENTIMENTAL" but they weren't that ready to be released. Others were written on the road and the rest was done two weeks before we went into the studio. So you can say that there's a nice 1 1/2 period inwhich the new album was written."

You've just mentioned the recordings. How long was your studio time? You choose to work with the same producer as last time. That sounds of a good cooperation.

"D.C. Herring is a great guy. The 5 weeks in the studio were really good. He understands me and pushes me artistically and brings out the best I can. We have a real good work-relationship and that's the reason for working with him again. Actually the sound of the new record is a little bit rawer but still the same quality as on the last one."

You don't know nothing about me or my world. So just shut up. keep your 2 cents!

What are the new songs about, lyrically I mean?

"The title track is about people talkin' trash about you. They stick their noses where they don't belong and they try to enforce their opinions about you and your business."

Another song on the album called "JUMPED IN" deals with the attractivity and dangers of gangs. That's still a very drastic problem in L.A. and the rest of the U.S.

"It's basically about the attractions of gangs. The kids tend to see only the cool parts of it and are not thinking about the negative sides and dangers of a gang. They only see the killer cars, the money, nice clothes and girls. But there's another basic thing why teenagers join gangs and that's their search for a family. In America we have a huge lack of family and the kids are refuging into another type of it and that's the gang. You got your homies in there and also love among the members. They watch out for eachother and stuff. But then there's suddenly the bad part of it and that are drugs, shootings, robberies and jail sentences- it's pretty much like a double edged sword. But it's part of our life. Situation is still the same, really. People are still shootin' eachother. But me and my wife got outta the whole game and it's the best to do. The people must get another way to reach out for love and fulfillment- that's why I play music!"

To whom do you refer in "MR. SUPERSTAR" which is the most emotional track on the album?

"Where we live, there's a lotta rockstars around who think they are so bad just because they play in a band. They act like they wanna teach you somthing but nobody really gives a fuck. By the way, I like that song a lot."

The title track is featured in the film "TANK GIRL" but you are not featured on the soundtrack. Why's that?

"It's just that we are not on ELECTRA who does the soundtrack to the film. They don't wanna feature an independent band which has nothing to do with their company. Actually we got into the whole stuff by chance 'cause the whole movie was done, all the music was there but a band pulled out. So they had a segment with no music and some of our record company guys gave them our new tape- they liked it a lot and finally our son was in the movie. We were at the right place at the right time, man. The film is actually pretty cool. It's a real nice Sci Fi picture."

We heard that you're actually featured in several skate and snowboard videos. It's good to see bands like you who have always been into this whole thing back in business, 'cause HC and punk seemed to be replaced by hip hop style nowadays. How important is this for you today?

"I totally agree with you that HC and punk disappeared for a while in this context. You know, skatin', surfin' and snowboardin' were always part of our life and will be. We just love to do this kinda stuff- it's where we come from. VENICE, California!!!"

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Have you heard...

IGNITE "IN MY TIME" Lost & Found

Yes, Yes, Yes!!! This is definitely the release we were waiting for. You may had the opportunity to hear some of the songs and most of all the new singer Zoli Teglas on their European tour with SLAPSHOT. IGNITE are back to their roots, they even sound more like UNIFORM CHOICE or UNITY than before without losing their own style. They even recorde their version of NO FOR AN ANSWER's "Man against Man" which was actually written by guitarist Joe D. Foster. A little short, but better than the most. This CD is just awesome!

LIFESITE "INVISIBLE WISH" New Life Rec.

This one is hard to review. First of all - it's really great. LIFESITE change their musical style from song to song, but you can say that this band from N.J. is into kind of new school type of HC musicwise. The vocals are mostly calm but very emotional and often sound a little sad. As said before, the music changes from new school S.E.-type stuff into acoustic parts or flanger guitars. Keep on listening to it and you'll explore the immense power and intensity of this record.

UNBROKEN "FALL ON PROVERB" L & F

Just two new songs on a 4 piece CD - that's too little! Although the new ones are in the same type of vein like the ones before this release can't convince. Hopefully we'll set to hear a new full length piece by this great band soon!

REFUSED "EVERLASTING" Startrec

Our new Nordic - HC - greats are back! If you liked their EP and their longplayer, you've to check out this CD, too. REFUSED kept their little noisy sometimes rocky S.E.-style but they are a little less powerful. This might be because of the thin guitar sound on this release. Artwork is great - but what the hell is this Hippie - type of colored CD?

NEGLECT "HANG IN THERE" We Bite Rec.

A new CD - single by our suicidal guys from N.Y. Two tracks of simple plain HC. No metal, no rock, no emo - pure NEGLECT. "Good for Nothing" and "Pure Living Hell" are exactly what you expected from this band. They consequently stick to their depressive, hard HC - style. If you met these guys you can't hardly believe them making this kinda stuff.

THIRD AGE "THIRD AGE" Atomic Action Rec.

Somewhere between QUICKSAND and 108. Rocky stuff like acoustic guitars and melody lines collide with mid - tempo emotional parts. The vocals are very into an emo type of style and the lyrics fit pretty well into the musical framework. If you are into emo stuff this will be something to check out for you!

RAISED FIST "YOU'RE NOT LIKE ME" Burning Heart

We are no longer wondering about the tons of good stuff coming from Scandinavia. RAISED FIST are no exception to the rule. Not unlike their geographical brothers 59TIMES THE PAIN they play fast forward HC style, you might say classic S.E. Hardcore. But nevertheless they avoid to sound like a pure copy of a "big" HC band though are lotta influences to hear like GORILLA

NO FUN AT ALL "NO STRAIGHT ANGLES" Burning Heart Rec.

Deside the huge Straight Edge / Vegan scene in Sweden there are lotta melodic style bands around these days. One of the most outstanding is NO FUN AT ALL. Their new full length piece is just rippin'. Although they sound a little less rough in comparence to their last release "Vision", which was the pure reincarnation of "Suffer" (you know by which band), they consequently stick to their fast, melodic style. Happy HC music with lotta chorus singalongs and harmonies! They even sound more variable and try to unit other types of music like Ska into their songs which seem to be very popular in Swden. Check also out the hidden bonus track a special version of "What You Say". These guys rule!



NEGLECT

MIOZÄN "BIG STICK POLICE" Defiance Rec.

The second release after their Bart's Revenge - 72 coming from this new German label. First of all you'll be impressed by an excellent digi - packed artwork. This CD contains the brandnew LP of this band plus their last one as bonus tracks and this means almost 50 minutes of running time. Don't fear this band having a certain type of just because this release coming from Kassel. MIOZÄN play in a way a classic fast HC sound influenced by Punk roots. Raging guitar riffs, fast drums and lots of choruses. The lyrical side is about themes like resisting against a totalitarian system, standing together, police brutality or fighting against reactionary resistance. Songs like the title track or "Burn the Flags" speak for each own.

CROSSBREED "CROSSBREED" Siri Rec.

This 4 song EP features well known people as Steve from DISORDER and now on vocals Gunnar formerly known as singer of SO MUCH HATE. Mostly mid - tempo HC along with a little noisy metal stuff (4th track). Watch out for coming releases.

BATTERY "Let the Past go" L & F

4 new tracks by our S.E.- heroes Ken Olden, Brian McTernan, Ben Chused & Alec Rosenberg. BATTERY show that they developed as a band from a classic fast S.E. type of HC (first 7") to an own unique kind of style. Especially the vocals are 100% BATTERY, if you know what I mean. The music is a little tighter than the LP and the band succeed in remaining their furious driving force behind their songs. Good release, guys!

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EARTH CRISIS "DESTROY THE MACHINES" Victory Records

No misunderstanding - the full-length debut of America's Straight Edge fundamentals EARTH CRISIS is really good. But after their blasting "Firestorm" - single I expected a little more from them. The songs somehow sound all a little equal to me, no real highlight after the first listening (except maybe "Born from Pain"). But hey - if you liked the former releases you'll love this one! EARTH CRISIS managed it to become even more heavy, slow and brutal than before. You can expect tons of powerful guitar-riffing and breaks with a lot of metal influences. Sometimes it seems that EARTH CRISIS have been influenced by rock veterans BLACK SABBATH (check out the opener "Discipline") or SLAYER. The songs are all in kinda sad but aggressive mood and well arranged, which leads to real long tracks and a total running time of 40 minutes. Definitely a release to check out!

APPROACH TO CONCRETE "DROWN" Mad Mob Rec.

This is the very first release of Cologne's APPROACH TO CONCRETE - and it's blasting! Five tracks in powerful NYHC - style at it's best, but without losing their kinda own style. Singer Jörg's voice is pure aggression and the guitar riffing is not easy comparable to others. This single contains everything: From hard, stomping parts to whole fast raging tracks. You'll also find an old school track on it. This single has to be in every HC - single collection! If you wanna know more about this outstanding band, just read their article this issue.

MEAN SEASON "GRACE" New Age Rec.

This is the newest release of MEAN SEASON from California, U.S., entitled "Grace". I remember MEAN SEASON well having a great live show on their first European tour last spring with NO FOR AN ANSWER. "Grace" is more into Emo - core than the last output, but that's really great for the band, 'cause it seems to me that they finally found their own style. MEAN SEASON are a positive alternation to all these conformist HC bands where you just can exchange the names on the covers. The 10 songs are mostly mid - tempo styley and most of them contain something like a permanent lead guitar in the background. But don't worry - you'll love it like the acoustic parts, too ("This Season"). The voice of singer Aaron Kelly differs from track to track (from spoken words and "real" singing to an aggressive throat) and fits perfectly into the melodramatic mood spread musicwise. A real masterpiece of Emo - core!

UNASHAMED "SILENCE" Tooth & Nail

If you take a first look at this CD sleeve you might expect some death metal type of music because of the threatening, gloomy celtic cross. But not unlike their label mates FOCUSED, this band plays very dark metal influenced HC- the legacy of BLACK SABBATH is still on its way, but of course there's a lot of HC in it, too. Despite of all this graveyard-atmosphere, or just because of it, again these guys are religious "fanatics". Accept it, accuse it, fall on your knees and pray or do whatever you like- musicwise "Silence" is an excellent piece of heavy tunes!

BEOWULF "2 CENTS" Restless

Oh man- I was lookin' forward to this release for a long time. After their last CD "Un-Sentimental" which already showed some new tendencies in songwriting and the split 7" on LOST & FOUND which included some older stuff, so everybody was eager to hear something new from Venice's very own BWF! First of all, don't expect them to be like in the 80's! Sad but true, the glory days of Venice-crossover-core are definitely over. Like on their last album BWF open up their mind for new horizons. But actually it's not that new: Main man Dale Henderson got himself a new line-up and recorded 12 new songs. But making a long story short: "2 c" is true punk rock!!! Most of the songs on it have very melodic hooklines and Dale's voice follows this path, away from shouting to an emotional kinda style. But somehow there's still the old BWF flavour in it: it's the whole atmosphere and sound of it. It's all new, it's still the same- BEOWULF in 1995, me entendes?

NECKBRACE 7" No Cruelty

The vegan S.E. revolution has taken its way over the channel to the U.K. although the label is German. These guys from Bradford try to walk in the footsteps of new school bands like EARTH CRISIS or SNAPCASE and they do it in an impressive manner: 4 great songs with intense "stop & go" HC, metal riffs and energetic vocals. Keep on, English!

INDECISION 7" Released Power Prod.

Their info talks of heavy Brooklyn vegan-mosh-core. Why the fuck Brooklyn, I'd pledge for Jersey, man! This is another piece of new school S.E. HC which stands out in the mass of releases. Don't expect something new but it's powerful and emotional- and this is what this type of music is about.



H2O

UNWRITTEN LAW "FEAR" Mad Mob Rec.

Some of you may remember UNWRITTEN LAW, because of their track on the "See, Hear and Shout"- sampler a few years ago. After tons of live gigs and hard work on new material they finally signed up with Berlin's true HC underground label MAD MOB RECORDS. Good choice, guys, your debut single is awesome. This might be the German answer to AGNOSTIC FRONT (just jokin', but I'm sure these guys heard it a thousand times before - "You sound like AF!") Imagine there's a single before "One Voice" and you'll know what it's all about. Enough compared with other bands, this is just a good piece of music. Four well arranged songs with good lyrics. UNWRITTEN LAW from Chemnitz, Germany, are without a doubt an enrichment for the German HC - scene. +

FOCUSED "BOW" Tooth & Nail

Jesus fuckin' christ- this one really kicks butt!!! Imagine the power of EARTH CRISIS, the darkness of INTEGRITY, an incredibly hard voice and a good slice of metal, mix it all up then you'll get the intense kind of HC this band is into. This 11 piece work is one of the most powerful releases of the past month. Besides the musical qualities "Bow" impresses through a well chosen cover and great artwork. After we got used to religious beliefs like the Krishna stuff or "Jah lives" we are now confronted with christian beliefs- everyone choose.

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APPROACH TO CONCRETE



If you're closely related to our last issue, you may have noticed the name of this new German HC - band. While you are reading these lines they have just released their very first 7" entitled "Drown" on MAD MOB RECORDS. But who are these guys - are they from Kassel? No! Neither they are another new band from Berlin - they are from Cologne. And they will definitely put this city on the map of HC! When they first started APPROACH TO CONCRETE back in 1991 they never thought of being a "real" ambitions HC - band. It was more a fun project, just covering HC - classics, such as NYC - stuff bands like SOIA, GORILLA BISCUITS or songs by C.O.C. But things develop, and ideas and people change and Jörg - vocs, Sebastian - bass, Jochen - drums and Thomas - guitar turned into an independent band & started to do their own stuff.

"But conditions were bad for us in the beginning. At Limburg, that's where we originally come from, there's nothing goin' on concerning Hardcore! So we decided to move to Cologne. But even there's no big deal. The scene is very little, there isn't hardly one. The people here in Cologne seem to have a lot too much money and to be interested in lotta matters and things, but not in HC! And we always had some trouble with our guitar players. Thomas, who is now in APPROACH TO CONCRETE, already is the third one playing the 6 strings. If there's not a big HC - scene it's of course hard to get new musicians."

Jörg reports. It is scarcely imaginable that there's such kinda lack of HC - enthusiasm and HC - crowd at a large city like Cologne.

"There are two main places to play. But often there are just a bunch of kids including ourselves watching the shows. If there's a bigger crowd, like a few days ago when BATTERY and UNBROKEN were playing - by the way it was awesome - you can be sure they're from other regions near Cologne. Good shows are the exception to the rule - sad but true,"

adds Jochen. APPROACH TO CONCRETE released their first self - produced demo - tape in 1993 and had the opportunity to play some gigs on the BLOODLINE / TRANSCEND - tour. These shows were followed by live appearances with the RYKER'S and FACE VALUE.

"It's hard to get some gigs in your hometown if there's no real HC - scene. One might get a little jealous if you look at cities like Kassel or Berlin, where lotta people come to HC - shows and are really into the whole movement!"

The guys wish that things would go a little faster. After they parted from their first guitar player A.T.C. had a five month off - time.

"We were just about to record our 7", but this is the way things go,"

Jörg sadly admits. But first steps into a new and right direction were taken. How did they get in touch with the MAD MOB label from Berlin?

"We have been in contact with the Kassel - crew for years. The RYKER'S always tried to help and support us wherever they could. They are great guys, man! I've nothing to report but good things about our bros in RYKER'S and also BRIGHTSIDE. Chris (Luft - RYKER'S bass player) gave us the address of Andy Claassen's STAGE 1 - studio where we finally recorded our stuff. First we were not sure about doing it but Andy showed us our musical quality. We all are very surprised and very content with the result."

Finding a label which is really acceptable and honest can be a serious matter.

"Yeah, there are very few around in Germany. We didn't want to be on a very small unknown label and make no progress. We like the whole idea behind MAD MOB. Trying to build up the German HC - scene and working hard for it is a good goal! Again we hesitated to hook up with them, we doubted that they would really sign us, but see, we did a 7" for them - that's great!"

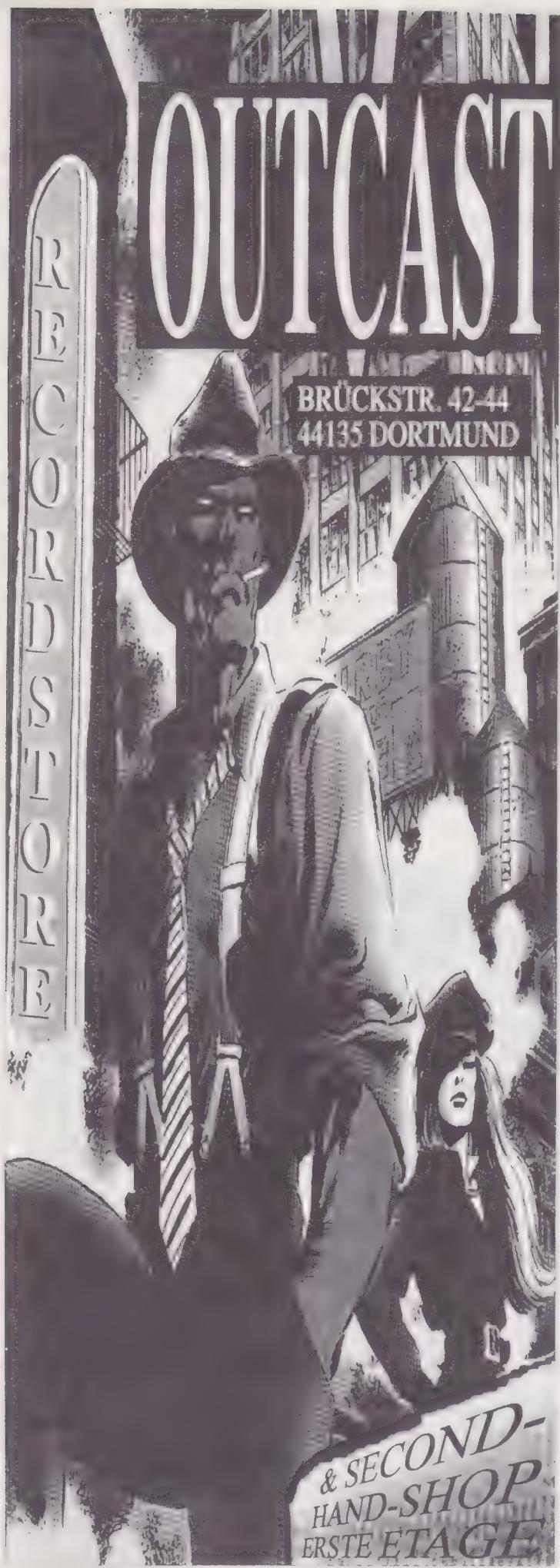
APPROACH TO CONCRETE seem to be critical characters, who think and argue very closely about important things. A lot of people don't even know how much sweat it takes to do something serious like a band, label or a 'zine and do it in a good & honest way.

"We appreciate people who work hard for their professions. It's the same with us. Making progress is the most important thing because we have already lost a lot of constructive time! We also think that our musical concept and idea goes along very well with MAD MOB."

In fact the German HC - scene is getting stronger again. A tour like the one with all the MAD MOB bands (MURDERED ART, PROPHECY OF RAGE, PUNISHABLE ACT, which are actually on Noise Rec. and 3rd STATEMENT) & the RYKER'S which was quite a huge success (more audience than on the last MADBALL - tour) and lead to positive response, is just the beginning.

"It's good to see the kids open up their hearts and minds for German Hardcore. I think again this is a credit of the RYKER'S. They did a good job pushin' the German





Jochen remarks. Back to their 7". It contains a number of pure HC - blastouts. This piece of music is definitely one of the best coming from Germany right now.

"You can easily hear our roots, it's without a doubt influenced by the classic NYHC - sound. But I think we got our own personality expressed in the songs. The producing is well done, too. Although we recorded the stuff at STAGE 1- studio in Kassel, we don't sound like for example the RYKER'S."

That's true. Check out their brilliant debut and you'll see: this is one of the finest releases last month. Jörg goes on:

"The lyrics are from a very personal point of view. I just sit down and write about things around or inside me. It would be hard to feature all of our opinions in one text. We are all so different, one is S.E., one is vegan, another drinks alcohol, you know, that's no problem for us!"

It's good to have another act in the German scene which combines honest ideas and work on a high musical level. The future will see more of APPROACH TO CONCRETE - they will definitely hit the stage supporting a better known HC - act. And I say "better known" with a purpose, 'cause German HC is fuckin' back on the map!



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STRAIGHT FROM YOUR MIND
FIRST 7"

DEFIANCE RECORDS
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A MEGABLAST

SNAPCASE, EARTH CRISIS, REFUSED -- LIVE AT BERLIN

That's just the expression for what just happened on May 24th at Berlin's new HC heaven! Say heaven- or was it hell or is it just the dawning of a new era? The most tremendous new planets in the HC-universe were colliding: SNAPCASE & EARTH CRISIS!!! But don't forget Europe's most successful and upcoming- actually they're already in full effect- S.E. band REFUSED. The place- the TRASH club- was packed. People from a lotta different neighborhoods and communities came together and saw what's the future of HC.

After the first chords of REFUSED all hell broke loose right from the start. Positive energy was the clue! The guys from Sweden played some of their new stuff as well as older material and the crowd really appreciated it. Songs like "Pump Up the Breaks" were A premiere- during the breaks HC videos were shown on a huge screen and there were a lotta dope clips people have never seen before. But now it was about time for the new school of HC.

I won't say too much about EARTH CRISIS concerning what they're all about- just check out the phat interview in this issue! Musewise they turned out to be one of the most intense bands I've seen in the past time. Yeah sure, they got their certain kind of style and indeed it's deeply influenced by metal but this powerful anger, the spirit of their feelings and thoughts flew through the room. What about the kids- they loved it!!! Singin' every line, shoutin' each chorus- this was their music! Big deal by EARTH SNAPCASE- those of you who saw them on tour with SOIA knew what to expect. This 5 piece powerhouse has one of the best stage appearances you might ever have seen. They are just pure emotion: aggression meets friendship, ideology meets understanding and despair meets hope. They started with "Incarnation" and motion isn't strong enough to describe what was on and off the stage- it was a blast! This intensity maintained 'til the last tunes fell silent.

Blood, sweat and respect- this is what it's all about. No matter which color, no matter which beliefs, no matter where you come from, respect eachother 'cause this is HC! The future, the legacy of our movement, look out for bands like the above-



I'M CRYING OUT TO ESCAPE IT'S NEGATIVITY

TURMOIL

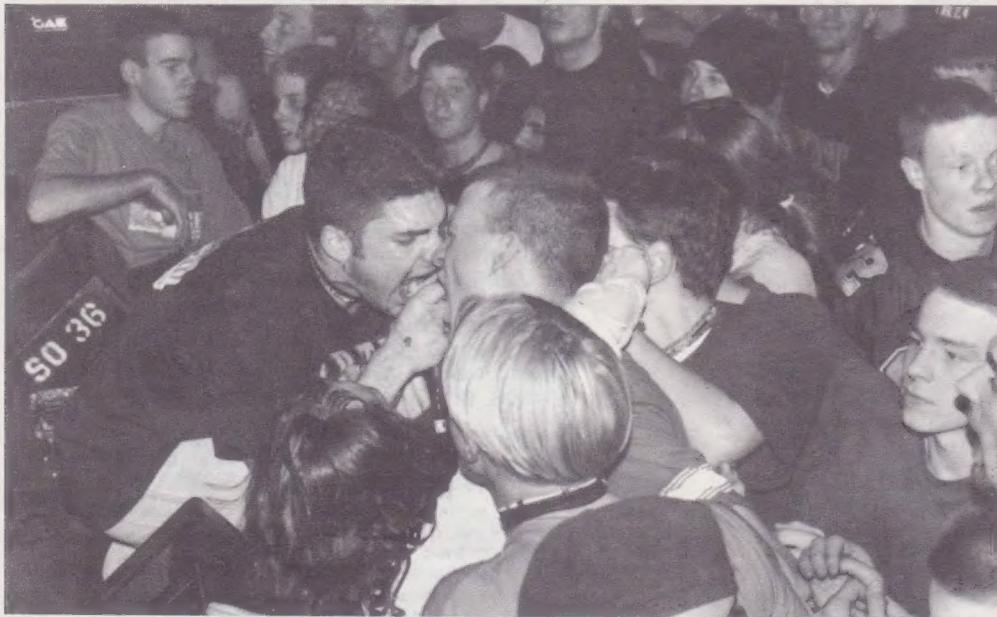
CAN I BREAK THESE CHAINS OF THEIR INSECURITIES?

Some bands who are around these days don't seem to fit very well in the certain ideas of so called "insiders" concerning record label, outfit and image. You can see it easily at TURMOIL's example: Unequal to their brother bands like SNAPCASE or EARTH CRISIS they get not that much respect or attention right over here as in the U.S. (TURMOIL played a couple of gigs with them back home). This might be because of their label CENTURY MEDIA, which isn't heavily involved into Hardcore until now, or their unclear band image, which don't stands in line with those from the mentioned bands - some band members are straight, some not - some are vegan, some not. So, no labels no lies! But this hopefully is the past, 'cause TURMOIL just supported MADBALL on their European tour. Their first release, a 4 track Mini - CD on CENTURY MEDIA, set a high standard for upcoming releases. Powerful new school HC, slow drumming, crushing guitar riffs and an extremely emotional throat by singer Jon Gula are the most outstanding trademarks of TURMOIL. We hooked up with the guys shortly before their gig in Hannover...

The band was founded 2 1/2 years ago by John - vocals, Jeff - guitar and Hodges - guitar. They are the original members left in the current line up. Gary is playing bass and Brian on drums complete this 5 piece band.

"We always had a lot of trouble with our drummers" Hodges reports "The first one had to leave TURMOIL because he wasn't too dedicated playing this kinda music. He's now doin' a more emo - type of band not unlike FUGAZI. Bob, our other drummer, was a complete jerk! We had to get rid of him after our first U.S. - tour with CHAOS U.K. which took about a week. We really wanted to kill him! No seriously, we wanted to have another drummer for a long time but timing was all wrong. First we had the studio - dates and the upcoming tour. So we had no other possibility than to keep him in the band. Otherwise it would have taken a quite long time to get a new drummer and to get him into our stuff."

After having recorded their MCD the band went on the tour with CHAOS U.K. on the East Coast. Actually that's a pretty contrasting package, an old Punk band and a new school HC band. How did this thing work out?



"Oh, the tour was a blast! We had so much fun on the road! We played 7 shows and all were great. I expected at least one of the old folks throwing a bottle at the stage - but the crowd was cool. They really accepted us and the best gig was in Norfolk: There was a younger HC - crowd and all the old Punk mob coming to see CHAOS U.K. and everybody had a lot of fun. This is the way it's got to be, man!"

Jeff seemed to be satisfied when looking back at this. But every coin has two sides and of course there were some bad experiences, too.

"Yeah, there was the problem with our drummer. But don't stress this too much. The only real fucked up thing was that we all stuck

this mini - van with all our equipment. That was a mess! We even thought we had to sleep in it, but after every show there was a bunch of kids who helped us out."

TURMOIL is a very young band. All the guys are hired in jobs or at school. Hodges & John work at a toy factory, Brian works at a car - wash although he ain't got no afro! Brian is still in High School because he's just turned 18, he's the bands baby.

"I'm at a pharmacy school now but I'll graduate in May and then I can do whatever I want. But the first priority will be the band that's for sure. Just go to work part - time so that there's a lotta time left for TURMOIL."

Jeff goes on. After recording their Demo two guys of a death metal band called BELIEVER helped out TURMOIL a lot. First they tried to hook up with ROADRUNNER which was their label. They actually liked the Demo but didn't want to release anything at that time. When BELIEVER was on European tour they passed TURMOIL's Demo to Robert from CENTURY MEDIA and he loved it right from the start. He

went out to meet the guys, saw them practice and play live and everything went fine. The 4-tracks on the CD are into a powerful a little metal influenced kinda HC without losing the roots of Hardcore.

"You know the whole songs and lyrics are very personal. You go through certain experiences in life such as girlfriends, jobs or growing up in general. These are topics for us to write about. It's all personal, but mostly we write just shit. On our next album we'll try to be harder than MADBALL - a tribute to N.Y.C., just jokin'!"

The perfect topic to talk about. The tour went pretty good, actually. Did you ever imagine to go on tour in Europe?

"Oh no - never! It's so fuckin' incredible to be on tour with a band like MADBALL! We all had our expectations. I was even a kinda intimidated to play with former members of AGNOSTIC FRONT 'cause they are the fuckin' originators of Hardcore! When they first wrote their

songs I was just a sparkle in my Dad's eye, you know what I mean? But the tour is going fuckin' good with them.

Until now we had the opportunity to play with bands we actually like, that's a very big purpose because on tour you live with the guys several weeks. You see them every goddamn day and you can imagine that is way better if you like each other!"

It was the first time for TURMOIL to come over to Europe. What kind of impressions will you take back to America?

"All the gigs have been fuckin' incredible. There wasn't actually one single show that you can call "shitty" except the fact that some cock - sucking bastards stole stuff outta the bus and the backstage - room

in Rendsburg. You suck! But otherwise we had only good things to report. Crowd has been really great to us and we made many new friends. Being on CENTURY MEDIA which is a bigger label not heavily involved in HC in general can be also a purpose, because a lotta people who aren't so much into HC will listen to our stuff. And they did a good distribution job, too. They really gave the CD's to let's say more alternative type of stores and that's good."

What are your future plans when you get back home? Will you work on some new material for the first longplayer?

"We already have a lot of stuff. 5 songs are completely done and two others are almost ready to record. We gotta write about 3 more to put on the upcoming record. We'll also redo a song of the MCD and record a new one for a 7" on HARVEST RECORDS. On the one hand we are more than content with the CD and the way things go but on the other hand there's still some criticism concerning about our debut - that's natural. We couldn't hardly believe that we have our own CD and go on tour. Things can happen very fast. You start something just for fun and all of a sudden it turns into a serious part of your life."

"Yeah, first you play a few shows at the weekend, then you play outta your state and things go on and on. The MCD already represented a kind of the band's development because the songs were written in a longer period of time. The new material has a little crazier sound. It's more noisy but we'll make sure that it's got a lot of basic HC stuff in it. The tracks are real powerful, heavy and intense - see, it's kinda hard to explain. We are all pretty excited and will go in the studio in April. We think the whole shit will be done and released in late summer. We might like to put out a 7" on CENTURY before that - we'll see."

During the show it seemed, that the crowd was very into TURMOIL's stuff.

"That's incredible, I mean, especially people over here in Europe know the words. We never expected that! We have a whole bunch of stories to tell when we get back home - Uncle Vinnie Stigma is a story - telling master!"

What do you think about the development of HC in your country? There's more metal stuff in HC nowadays and bands like SNAPCASE and EARTH CRISIS are the new heroes. These guys put topics into their songs which one never would have expected in Hardcore.

"Oh, we think that's O.K. We actually play with these bands and they all are nice persons. Anyone can write about what he likes as long as he doesn't hurt anybody. We may look different at things the way those bands do but let them think about what they want! They are great, though"

Jeff explains. The future will definitely see a lot of TURMOIL. 'Til then good luck to Keanu, Woodpecker, Johnny Boy and the Colorado Kid!



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MAD

SICK OF IT ALL CIV + H2O

30.06. Losheim 03.07. Leipzig
04.07. Berlin 05.07. Ulm
06.07. Hamburg 08.07. Gelnhausen

MADBALL

Crown of Thorns / Punishable Act

02.07. Bielefeld 03.07. Hamburg
04.07. Berlin 05.07. Kassel

SNAPCASE

refused

27.07. Schleiz 28.07. Köln
29.07. Trossingen 30.07. Schweinfurt
31.07. Luzern 01.08. Saarbrücken
02.08. Stuttgart 03.08. Essen
04.08. Gütersloh 07.08. Lübeck
11.08. Dessau 12.08. Lugau
13.08. Berlin + weitere

RYKERS Damnation

29.07. Trossingen 07.08. Bochum
08.08. Neumünster 09.08. Ilsenburg
10.08. Rostock 11.08. Neu-Wulmstorf
12.08. Chemnitz 13.08. Ulm
14.08. Schweinfurt 15.08. Kassel
16.08. Bielefeld 17.08. Köln
21.08. Saarbrücken 22.08. Esterhoven
26.08. Lugau 27.08. Berlin

CHOKEHOLD Feeding The Fire

28.07. Schleiz 29.07. Salzgitter
30.07. Kassel 31.07. Dessau
01.08. Spremberg 02.08. Stuttgart
03.08. Essen 04.08. Gütersloh
06.08. Esterhoven 08.08. Saarbrücken
09.08. Köln 13.08. Berlin
14.08. Schweinfurt 16.08. Senftenberg
18.08. Gräfenwerder 24.08. Bochum

SLAPSHOT BITTER + RIGHT DIRECTION

25.08. Schweinfurt 26.08. Neu Münster
27.08. Gütersloh 28.08. Kassel
29.08. Köln 30.08. Essen
01.09. Berlin 02.09. Leipzig
05.09. Spremberg 06.09. Hannover
09.09. Lübeck wird fortgesetzt!!!

IGNITE Temperance

01.09. Schweinfurt 02.09. Kassel
11.09. Saarbrücken 14.09. Bielefeld
16.09. Salzgitter ... wird fortgesetzt

vorschau

22.09. 108 / ABHINANDA 15.09. EARTH CRISIS
OKT. INTEGRITY / PROPHECY OF RAGE
NOV. PETER AND THE TESTTUBE BABIES

LOST & FOUND

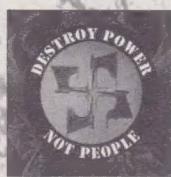
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BASTARDOS, DEAD BEAT, DISRUPT,
SIEGE, NO SECURITY and HERSEY.



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Fatline

One unreleased song by each
band.



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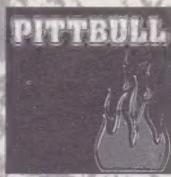
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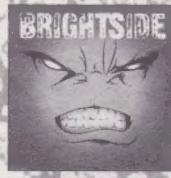


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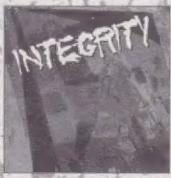
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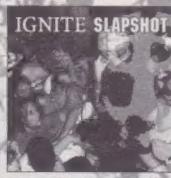
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• MCD

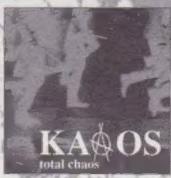
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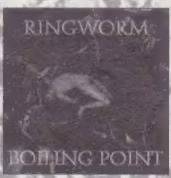
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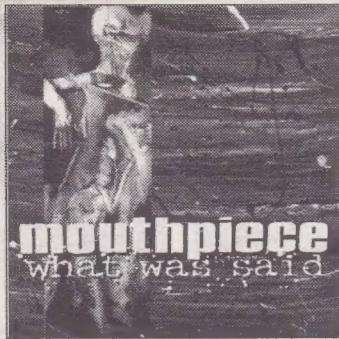
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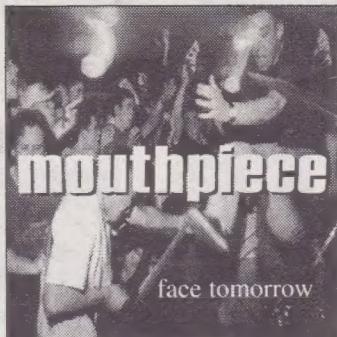
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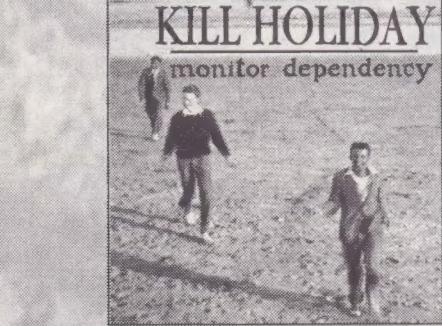
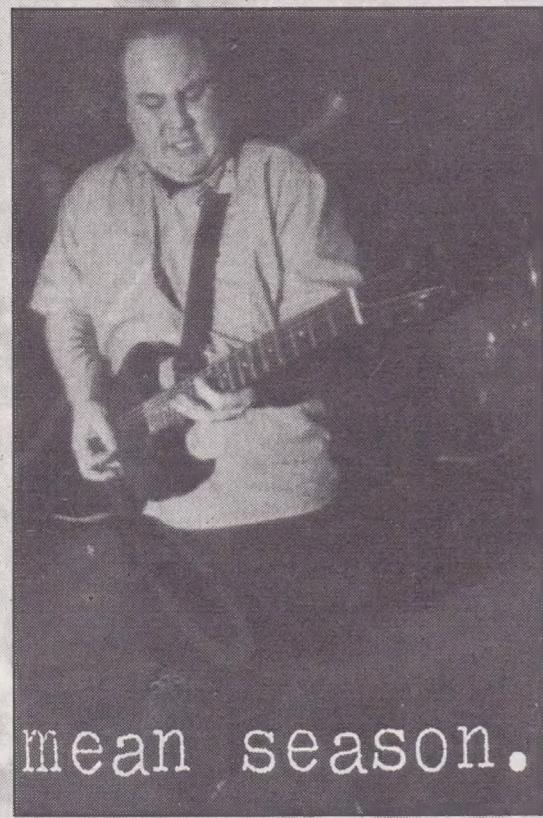
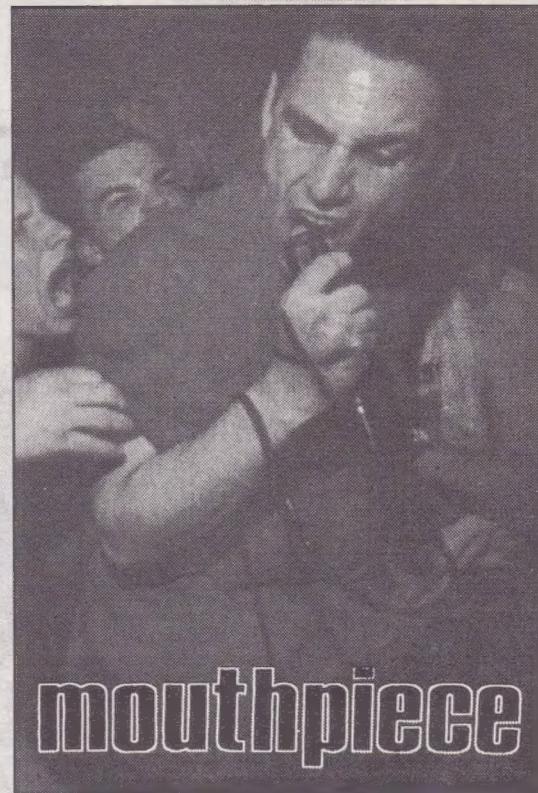


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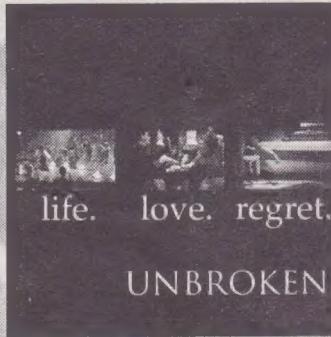
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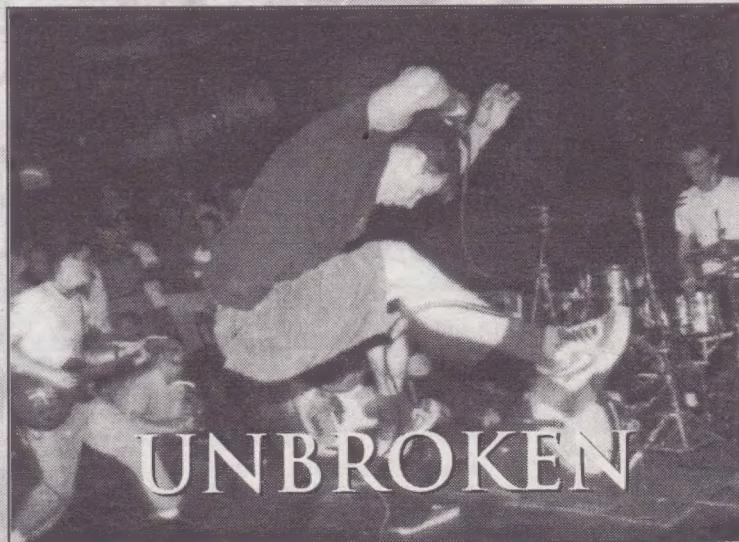
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